

Response to Office Action Mailed July 7, 2009

A. Claims in the Case

Claims 1-8, 10, 15, 18, and 20-22 have been rejected. Claims 9, 11-14, 16-17, and 19 have been objected to. Claims 6-7, 9, 15, and 22 have been canceled. Claims 1, 8, 10, 17, and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 8, 10-14, and 16-21 are pending in the case.

B. Claim Objections

The Examiner has indicated that claims 9, 11-14, 16-17, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Furthermore, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended base claim 1 to include at least some of the features expressed previously in claim 9. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

C. The Claims Are Not Anticipated By Li et al. Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0051960 to Li et al. ("Li"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection. In order to expedite prosecution, however, claim 22 has been canceled.

D. The Claims Are Not Obvious Over The Cited Art Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10, 15, 18, and 20-21 as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0051960 to Li et al. ("Li") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0148697 to Muramatsu et al. ("Muramatsu"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this

rejection. In order to expedite prosecution, however, Applicant has amended claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's statements regarding allowable subject matter.

Applicant submits that claims 2-8, 10, 15, 18, and 20-21 are allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons recited above regarding claim 1 from which the claims depend.

E. Summary

For at least the reasons cited above, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5310-09300/EBM

Respectfully submitted,

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